Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

Find in Entire Site Go

Backlinks...

**Menu**

Home
Search
List pages
Last Changes

Image Galleries

**Main Sections**

Aristasian Glossary
Aristasian Life and Culture
Aristasia Pura
Aristasia in Telluria
Philosophy and Religion
Sound and Kinematics
Telluria Criticism

**Random Pages**

Deformism
Raihiralan
Animism
Aristasian Politics
Imperial Anthem
Aristasian Standards
The Vikhelic Arts
HomePage
Quirinelle

**Search**

in:
Entire Site Go

**Login**

Login as...
User:
Password:
Login

Standard | Secure

# The Philosophy of Numbers and Measurements

The saying that lies at the root of the sciences of mathematics and measurement gives us the very principle upon which those sciences are and must be based:

**Numbers were before there were things to be numbered.**

In other words, while numbers may seem to be inalienably bound to the realm of quantity, they are in fact qualities. That is why the Westrenne Nations (other than Novaria which is often considered only half-Westrenne) have "numerical" names. The graceful Three of Trent representing the Golden Order of Thamë; the compassionate Five of Quirinelle, representing the love of Sai Sushuri; the steadfast Four of Kadoria representing solidity and the Fortress of Sai Vikhë; the mystical Two of Vintesse representing the magic of duality and all the interplay of yin and yang.

The relationship of measurements to the human body (the inch = the upper part of the thumb (hence the term "rule of thumb"), the foot = a foot, the yard = a pace; the cubit = the forearm) are based on the sacred proportions of the Celestial Maid.

Such ideas were once current in Telluria. The French Revolution, with its aggressive and regicidal this-worldly rationalism, forced the metric system first on France and then on most of Europe. It was a system deliberately conceived to eradicate the "superstitious" (read spiritual and traditional) nature of real measurements.

Traditional Geometry was passed to patriarchal Europe, from much more ancient sources, by Pythagoras and Plato, both of whom were fully aware of its higher significance: a significance still expounded (though rarely understood) by the teachers of the surviving symbolic system of Freemasonry - one of the last West-Tellurian examples of a true traditional generation-to-generation transmission of doctrine.

This picture of Geometria is very


significant. *Geo-metria* means earth-measurement. And while the earth is strongly represented with its mountains, trees and rivers, Geometria does not touch it. Indeed her lower parts - the legs and feet which would connect her to the physical earth - are missing. She floats in a cloud, signifying spiritual or angelic quality, and yet she inscribes the fundamental shapes on which all earthly things are based.

Contemplating her image, we learn something of the apparent contradiction between true and false measurement.

True, traditional measurement seems on the surface much more concrete. Its terms relate to feet, paces and thumbs - and yet it is based in the higher principles of being.

False, rationalistic, measurement seems purely abstract. Its names mean nothing but "measure" plus fractional numbers. And yet is is bound wholly to the visible world and is entirely ignorant of every trace of higher significance.

To understand this more deeply, see the analogy of the map in Images of the Cosmos (the first chapter of *The Feminine Universe*). Traditional measurement reads the true Map of the Cosmos. Rationalist measurement has no Map and, indeed, is aggressively hostile to the Map and to all knowledge beyond that of the animal senses.

Its "abstractions" are not above the world of the senses - the supra-material Essences from which all material things derive: they are clumsily abstracted *from* the world of the senses and can only ever be inferior to it. In that sense, while they are rajasic in origin, they contain at least the beginnings of the tamasic pull toward the lower, or sub-material, regions.

**See Also**

Aristasian Standards

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